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ABSTRACT

This chronicle outlines the development of adult education in British Columbia from 1833 to 1976. The introduction states that the development of adult education activities and services in British Columbia can be traced back almost one hundred and fifty years. The author stresses that the outline is tentative, and he encourages others to fill in the gaps. In the earlier period of the chronology, especially pre-1914, the author defines adult education as deliberate efforts by men and women to satisfy their thirst for knowledge, to equip themselves for citizenship responsibilities, and to find opportunities for self expression. In the later sections, he gives emphasis to activities which involve sustained communication between the learner and a teacher or instructional agent. Very few of the major developments included in the chronology are said to be associated with agencies for which adult education is the principal activity. In later years a trend is noted in which formal educational institutions have increasingly become dominant in the provision of adult education. (CSS)

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A CHRONOLOGY OF ADULT EDUCATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

GORDON R. SELMAN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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ABOUT THIS SERIES AND THIS PAPER

This Occasional Paper is the fourteenth in a series being published by the Centre for Continuing Education. Our aim is to contribute to the field of adult education by publishing monographs which originate here at The University of British Columbia and are deemed to be worthy of reaching a wider audience than would otherwise be the case.

The author of this paper, Gordon R. Selman, is Associate Professor in Adult Education at U.B.C. His major research interest is the history and development of adult education in Canada and particularly in British Columbia. Currently, he is engaged in a long-term research project on the history of adult education in British Columbia. The chronology of adult education is an important part of the project.

Gordon Selman published over the last few years numerous articles on historical aspects of adult education in Canada, among these articles concerned with the development of the field in Canada and in British Columbia, the extension work at this University and a series of articles on the pioneering days of adult education in this Province. The Canadian Association for Adult Education published his monograph A History of Fifty Years of Extension Service of The University of British Columbia, 1915 to 1965. His papers Toward Co-operation: The Development of a Provincial Voice for Adult Education in British Columbia, 1953 to 1962; Adult Education in Vancouver Before 1914; A Decade of Transition: The Extension Department of The University of British Columbia 1960 to 1970; and Adult Education in British Columbia During the Depression were published earlier in this series of Occasional Papers.

This paper provides an overview of the development, in a very broad sense, of adult education in British Columbia and a framework for further detailed exploration of periods and aspects of this

important activity in this Province. The chronology demonstrates the deep historical roots of adult education in British Columbia, its vitality and responsiveness to individual and social needs, and the leadership exercised so often in this field by British Columbians.

Gordon Selman appeals to the reader of this paper, who might be able to supply further information and to help fill in any omission, to assist in making the historical record of adult education in British Columbia as complete as possible. I would like to join him in this appeal.

Jindra Kulich
Acting Director

A CHRONOLOGY OF ADULT EDUCATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Introduction

The development of adult education activities and services in what is now British Columbia can be traced back almost 150 years, to the period before the 1858 gold rush. Historical research carried out in recent years, much of it on primary sources, has now for the first time made it possible to compile a tentative chronological outline of outstanding developments in adult education in the province during this entire period. This paper represents the first attempt to do so.[1]

It should be stressed at the outset that the outline which follows is a tentative, pioneering effort. The author is well aware that there are probably significant gaps in the chronology presented here, but feels that enough is now known about the subject that it is time that such an attempt be made. Hopefully one result of the publication of this chronology, as partial as it may be, will be the encouragement of others who find their work unsatisfactorily represented to draw these omissions to the attention of the field.

The nature of the sources for research in this field are such that there is undoubtedly an emphasis in the chronology on the activities of public institutions and on other developments in the larger centres of the lower mainland and southern Vancouver Island. Adult education has been such a far-flung and unco-ordinated activity over the years--here as elsewhere--that it is difficult to bring together even a reasonably comprehensive presentation of its many aspects. The farther back in time one goes in attempting to do so, the more reliant one becomes on government records (which tend to report only publicly-sponsored activities) and on the newspaper files from the larger population centres. Some efforts have been made to offset the bias produced in these ways, but research in this field is at an early stage and much remains to be done.

One of the most difficult problems faced in preparing such a chronology is one of definition. Scholars in the field of adult education today tend to stress activities which involve sustained communication between the learner and a teacher or other "instructional agent", whether this happens under the sponsorship of an educational institution or in some other setting. In the later section of the chronology which follows, overwhelming emphasis is given to such activities. But in the earlier period, especially pre-1914, a broader definition is used, one in keeping with the terminology of the well-known 1919 Report in the United Kingdom, which defined adult education as:

> all the deliberate efforts by which men and women attempt to satisfy their thirst for knowledge, to equip themselves for their responsibilities as citizens and members of society or to find opportunities for self expression.[2]

There is also the complex question of how to draw a satisfactory line between education and proselytizing. How is one to regard the educational activities of the Christian missionaries among the Indian people; study groups conducted under the sponsorship of political parties; leadership development programs conducted by industry or organized labor? There are no fully satisfactory criteria which can be applied in such cases, but an attempt has been made to include any such activities which appeared to have a strong genuinely educational as distinct from proselytizing or propagandistic emphasis. These of course are judgment calls and other observers may not agree in every case. The present author, it should be said, is inclined to favor a broader definition of what constitutes adult education than would be accepted by most scholars, and the chronology which follows undoubtedly reflects this view.

No attempt can be made here to provide a satisfactory interpretation of the many developments reflected in the chronology. A few very general observations can be made, however. There has been consistent importation to British Columbia of organizational

and institutional forms which were developed elsewhere as a means of providing adult education and related activities. This would include the mechanics' and church institutes, Y.M. and Y.W.C.A.'s, literary and debating societies and farmers' institutes, as well as the more formal educational institutions such as the adult education activities of the school boards, colleges and universities.

As elsewhere, adult education has been carried out principally by institutions and organizations which were created primarily to perform other functions, but have taken on a role in adult education as well. Very few of the major developments included in the chronology are associated with agencies for which adult education is the principal activity. Another noteworthy observation is the important role played in the development of adult education, especially in the early decades, by the various denominations of the Christian Church. It also seems clear that in the latter part of the period, the more formal educational institutions have become more dominant in the overall provision of adult education than was the case in the earlier years. The development of the community colleges in the last decade has accelerated this trend. Although there has been considerable emphasis on local initiative and voluntary leadership in the development of adult education throughout the period, the publicly-supported institutions, with their increasingly professional and specialized adult education staffs, have become a more prominent part of the field, especially since the Second World War.

Another significant feature is that although federal government agencies do not appear very frequently in the chronology (perhaps less than they should), the federal government has had a major influence on the development of the field, especially in its vocational and post-secondary dimensions, through legislation and resulting funding of certain kinds of activities.

The final general observation is that the chronology lends emphasis to the view stressed by several writers that adult

education has developed in stages, as one of the responses to the crises which have faced our people throughout their history. In terms of the experience in British Columbia, it can be seen how the challenges presented by the settlement of the frontier, the two world wars, the great depression and increased industrialization, to name but five of the most obvious examples, have been a stimulus to the development of new programs and new institutional forms.

The chronological outline which follows is but a tentative beginning. It is hoped that its appearance may encourage others to help fill in the gaps and add to our general understanding of this significant field which has made such important contributions over the years to both social well-being and individual happiness here in British Columbia.

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[1] For this author's earlier attempt to prepare a chronology for part of the period, see Gordon Selman, "A Chronology of Adult Education in B.C. Before 1914", The Journal of Education, No. 18 (Winter, 1971), pp. 115-122.

[2] R.D. Waller (Ed.), A Design for Democracy, London, Max Parrish, 1956, p. 59.

CHRONOLOGY

1833 * Columbia Library (subscription circulating library) for Hudson's Bay Co. officers in the Pacific region founded by Wm. F. Tolmie.

1854 * Scientific institute formed by the settlers at Craigflower (near Victoria), the earliest such organization of which there is record. Members took turns lecturing to the group.

1857 * Anglican Missionary, Rev. Wm. Duncan, organized night school for adult Indians at Fort Simpson.

1858 * "The Victoria Reading Room", the first private commercial reading room in the province, opened.

1859 * Fort Hope (Hope) Reading Room and Library founded by an Anglican clergyman in the area. F.H. Johnson has described it as the first mechanics' institute in the province.

* First Y.M.C.A. in the province, (a short-lived Victoria branch), opened and provided reading room for members.

* Victoria Philharmonic Society presented concert of vocal and instrumental music. Earliest such organization in the province of which there is record.

* The "naval amateurs" from H.M.S. Ganges presented an evening of dramatic performances in Victoria. This the first of many, and the first such performance of which there is record.

* The Select School, a private school in Victoria, offered tuition in the evenings in academic subjects. This is the earliest example of such courses which has been discovered.

1861 * Short-lived Victoria Literary Institute, forerunner of the mechanics' institute, formed and offered lectures for 1861-62 season only.

* Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Victoria formed and held first annual exhibition.

1862 * Yale Reading Room organized. Revived in 1882 as the Yale Institute and Reading Room.

* Mr. John Jessop, who later became the first Superintendent of Education in B.C., began evening classes in academic,

commercial and musical subjects at his institution, the Central School, in Victoria.

* St. Paul's (Anglican) Literary Institute founded. The following year it was separated from the church and became the Nanaimo Literary Institute. Managed a library and conducted other activities occasionally until mid-1880's.

1863 * Cariboo Literary Institute founded in Cameronton and subsequently moved to Barkerville. Activities restricted to maintaining library. Disbanded 1874.

1864 * Victoria Mechanics' Institute, the most active in the province, formed this year. Continued in existence until 1886. Activities included library, lectures, debating, orchestra, essay contests, exhibitions, etc.

1865 * The British Columbia Institute (New Westminster) founded; forerunner of the civic library and mechanics' institute of that city. Government of Mainland Colony gave supporting grant to the institute, the first public funds in B.C. in support of adult education.

1866 * Union of the two colonies. Government of the United Colonies provided supporting grants to New Westminster and Barkerville Institutes. These terminated with the grants the following year.

1867 * First occasion of what was to become the annual exhibition of the Royal and Industrial Society of B.C., the "Provincial Exhibition", held in New Westminster.

1868 * Government of the United Colony of British Columbia discontinued grants in support of mechanics' institutes.

* Moodyville Mechanics' Institute (North Vancouver), at first called Burrard Inlet Mechanics' Institute, founded. Still operative in 1900.

* Evening school for Chinese immigrants, the first in the province, started under Methodist auspices in Victoria.

* Cariboo Church Institute founded by St. Saviour's Anglican Church in Barkerville. Active until 1871. The most active of the church institutes in the province.

1869 * Hastings Literary Institute (Hastings Mill--Vancouver)

founded, initially and briefly under the name New London Mechanics' Institute.

1870 * Night school for young Indian men conducted in Nanaimo by Methodist Church.

1871 * United Colonies join Confederation and become Province of British Columbia.

* "An Act Respecting Literary Societies and Mechanics' Institutes" (B.C.) provided basis for provincial supporting grants to such organizations. Grants made to four centres the following year. Terminated in 1878.

1873 * Agricultural Societies Incorporation Act (B.C.) passed.

1874 * First Provincial Teachers' Institute organized by the Department of Education--annual meeting devoted to in-service professional continuing education.

1875 * Y.M.C.A. re-opened in Victoria and began offering evening lectures for the public; the first activity of this kind provided by the organization. Debating classes and other activities began in subsequent years.

1877 * Coal Mines Regulation Act (B.C.) introduced minimum qualifications for mine managers. This and further legislation eventually led to management responsibility for training and stimulated local night schools.

* Report of the Superintendent of Education, John Jessop, recommended experiments with night schools in the larger centres. No immediate response.

1885 * First local Teachers' Institute formed--in Victoria. Concerned with in-service education and professional advancement.

* Regional teachers' institutes also formed this year--Coast, Mainland, Interior and Kootenay regions.

1886 * Librarian first appointed on temporary annual basis (during the sittings of legislature) to organize the provincial library.

* Provincial Museum of Natural History and Geology established.

* Local branch of International Sabbath School Convention

formed in Victoria (Presbyterian). This the first of many organizations in the province for the in-service training of church Sunday School workers.

* Nanaimo public school principal and a teacher from his staff ran academic night classes in church schoolroom during the year.

1887 * Father A.G. Morice began project in Stuart Lake area teaching Indians to read and write shorthand form of their language.

* First evening instruction in commercial specialties conducted in Victoria. Such work began in Vancouver the following year.

* Vancouver Reading Room established; forerunner of the Vanccuver Public Library. Some Hastings Literary Institute books in the initial collection.

1888 * Night school for Chinese opened by Methodist church in Kamloops.

* Civic public library established in Victoria, based on the books acquired from the recently disbanded mechanics' institute.

1889 * First Dominion experimental farm established in B.C. at Agassiz.

* Victoria Y.M.C.A. began its evening class program in vocational subjects. (With some lapses, this program grew into a major community service in the period 1903 to 1914).

* Burrard Literary Society formed in Vancouver and remained active until 1908 as a highly successful debating and mock parliament organization.

* The Vancouver Art Association founded. Gave art classes, organized exhibitions.

* Inland Agricultural Association formed, based in Ashcroft and Kamloops.

1890 * The Natural History Society of B.C. was formed in Victoria in close association with the Provincial Museum. Study groups met regularly and have been active continuously since.

* B.C. Telephone Co. began training programs for its employees.
* Nanaimo Y.M.C.A. formed. Conducted variety of educational work in subsequent years.

1891 * Father J.M.R. Le Jeune began publication of Kamloops Wawa, newspaper written partly in shorthand form of Indian language of the area.
* The Arion Club, a male choir group, was founded in Victoria and remained active for at least the following 23 years.
* Classes in English language for Japanese immigrants in Vancouver were started under Methodist auspices. Other denominations took part in later years.
* New Westminster Mechanics' Institute revived. During this and the following year it conducted commercial and scientific evening courses.
* Free Libraries Act (B.C.) passed.

1892 * Sailor's Rest founded in Vancouver. It and similar organizations provided recreational and educational services for sailors in port.

1893 * B.C. Department of Agriculture began publication of regular series of information bulletins.
* First permanent appointment made of Provincial Librarian.
* Vancouver Y.M.C.A. began its evening class program which, with some lapses, grew into a major community service until it was supplanted by the school board offerings beginning in 1909.
* Columbian (Methodist) College of New Westminster conducted series of lectures and debates for the public. Offered occasional series of lectures in subsequent years.

1894 * Local Council of Women founded in Victoria and Vancouver.
* The Art, Historical and Scientific Association of Vancouver founded. A very active organization in educational activities and founder of what became the city museum.
* New Westminster Y.M.C.A. operated poorly-attended evening classes in academic and commercial subjects. A few classes conducted off and on in subsequent years.
* The Art and Scientific Association of New Westminster

founded and remained active only until 1896.

1895 * Victoria Literary Society founded as a result of initiative taken by the Governor General's wife, Lady Aberdeen. It remained a small, exclusive group which read and discussed literary works. Remained in existence until at least 1911.

1896 * Rossland "Free Library and Reading Room" founded in Anglican Church.

* Provincial Bureau of Mines established and conducted series of lectures on mining in Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster.

* South Park High School, Victoria, offered lecture series during the year and again two years later. This is the earliest example of this kind of activity by a public school.

* Vancouver School of Mines (private) founded for training assayers and mining engineers. Offered day and evening courses.

1897 * Farmers' Institute Act (B.C.) passed and first Farmers' Institutes in province established.

1898 * Vancouver Medical Association meets for first time. Opened library 1906.

1899 * Provincial travelling library service inaugurated; 120 libraries in circulation by 1914.

1900 * University-level work made available for part-time students by Vancouver College, a public institution affiliated with McGill University.

1901 * Dominion Department of Agriculture held first of travelling dairy schools in province. First one at Victoria, and several others during the year at a number of places.

* Amendments to Act Respecting the Inspection of Steam Boilers provided for the examination of steam engineers.

* "Mothers' Club" of Spring Ridge School, Victoria, formed this year and active until at least 1912. Conducted active educational program and forerunner of parent-teacher organization.

1903 * Hedley Methodist Church organized reading room and literary

society. Hedley Twentieth Century Club (a literary and social group) formed later the same year.

* Canadian Reading Camp Association (founded in 1899 in Ontario) opened first "club house and reading room" in B.C., at Fernie. This organization became Frontier College in 1919.
* Dominion Department of Marine and Fisheries opened Marine School in Victoria. Provided lectures on seamanship.
* This and following year, Victoria College and High School offered evening lecture series.

1904 * First Y.M.C.A. "railway branch" launched in co-operation with C.P.R. at Revelstoke. Became national movement thereafter.
* The Studio Club formed in Vancouver. For a decade it offered instruction in painting, much of it at a fairly elementary level, and organized exhibitions.
* North Vancouver Horticultural Association formed and first of its annual exhibitions held.
* Sprott-Shaw proprietary school opened in Vancouver with broad curriculum. (Victoria branch formed 1913.)

1905 * Manual training classes offered in the evening for the first time, in Victoria.

1906 * Alexandra Club founded in Victoria. It and its short-lived predecessor, the Tuesday Club, were active sponsors of literary and artistic activities in the city.
* Victoria School Board offered first evening classes in arithmetic and commercial subjects.
* Men's Canadian Clubs formed.
* B.C. Electric Co. launched its in-company technical school, which offered variety of scientific and technical courses.

1907 * Dominion Department of Marine and Fisheries opened Marine School in Vancouver. Provided lectures on seamanship. Vancouver program became most successful in the country.
* Vancouver School Board offered first evening classes, in a few subjects. Comprehensive program launched two years later.

* McGill University College conducted several evening credit courses for the year 1907-08 only.

1908 * Vancouver Y.W.C.A. conducted active evening class program by this date.

* B.C. School Trustees' Association endorsed resolutions calling upon the Department of Education to authorize school boards to conduct night schools and to provide grants in support of such activity.

* McGill University College conducted non-credit lecture activity this and subsequent year.

* Lynn Valley (North Vancouver) Institute formed. Maintained library and conducted debating and musical activities in subsequent years.

1909 * First Women's Institutes formed in the province.

* Re-organization of B.C. Department of Agriculture led to increase in its educational activities.

* The Island Arts Club founded in Victoria. Sponsored a variety of educational activities in subsequent years.

* Women's Canadian Clubs formed.

* Vancouver launched the first comprehensive school board night school program in the province and attracted 966 registrations. Program conducted every year thereafter.

* Sheetmetal Workers organized evening lecture courses for apprentices in the trade.

* St. John's Ambulance Association began its first aid instruction in Vancouver and other centres.

* Library opened in Kamloops. Civic grants in support of it began and reading room opened 1911.

1910 * Amendments to the Public School Act authorized school boards to conduct night schools and provided financial support for such work. Six centres qualified for grants in 1910-11: Extension, Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Nelson, New Westminster and Vancouver. South Vancouver also conducted classes. By 1914, a further six centres had offered classes for one or more years.

* B.C. Agricultural Fairs Association organized.

* First short courses on fruit packing conducted by B.C. Department of Agriculture.
* B.C. legislature provided funds for establishment of demonstration orchards.
* Provincial Archives established.

1911
* Canadian Reading Camp Association maintained ten worker-instructors in B.C. during summer season that year.
* "Adult School" organization founded in Victoria.
* Vancouver Debating League founded. In subsequent years it involved debating teams fr.. an increasing number of organizations in the city. Founded under Y.M.C.A. auspices.
* Vancouver Typographical Union organized evening lecture series for its apprentices.
* Vancouver Exhibition Association held its first annual event.
* B.C. Library Association formed. Devoted to the extension and improvement of library service in the province.
* Collingwood Free Library founded by F.H. Bursill, key figure in this and other literary organizations, including Shakespeare and Dickens Societies. Library continued to 1954.
* B.C. Mountaineering Club established Botany Section. In 1916 it became Natural History section and in 1918 it merged with the Vancouver Natural History Society.

1913
* Passage of Agricultural Instruction Act by Federal Parliament provided federal funds for agricultural education in B.C.
* Provincial Royal Commission on Agriculture recommended strengthening educational work of Department of Agriculture.
* John Kyle, who had launched Vancouver night school program, appointed to Department of Education in charge of technical education. Directed night classes until retirement in 1938.
* Department of Education held first summer school for teachers. Continued annually until 1956.
* First night classes in Agriculture held, at Chilliwack.

1915
* B.C. appointed first district agriculturalist.
* Aero Club of B.C. offered first formal flight instruction in B.C.

* First Parent-Teacher Association in B.C. organized at Craigflower (Victoria).
* Victoria Normal School founded. Continued until 1956.

1916 * B.C. Teachers' Federation formed. Officially incorporated in 1919.
* Vancouver Institute founded--University of British Columbia and community--offered weekly lectures during the winter term. Longest continuing existence of any such organization in B.C.
* Workmen's Compensation Act (B.C.) passed. Provided for safety and related educational activity.
* First "Round Table" study group formed in B.C., devoted to the study of imperial relations.

1917 * University of British Columbia, established in 1915, began adult education work, organizing vocational short courses in several fields for returning war veterans.

1919 * Department of Education launched correspondence educational programs. Courses in coal mining were among the first courses offered.
* Public Library Commission established under new Public Libraries Act (B.C.). The Commission thereafter played an important role in the development of adult education in the province. The Act also provided for the creation of local library associations and first of these formed in Duncan this year. Open Shelf (mail) library service to individual borrowers also begun this year.
* Technical Training Assistance Act (Ottawa) passed providing funds for vocational education. Renewed periodically until 1940's.
* Reading Camps Association became Frontier College. Provided laborer-teachers in B.C. each summer, six this year. B.C. government began to provide financial support for Frontier College this year.

1920 * University of British Columbia began Summer Session for teachers; annual thereafter.

1921 * League of Nations Society organized in Vancouver.

1922 * B.C. Parent-Teacher Federation formed by the more than 60 associations in the province.

1923 * Funds from Agricultural Instruction Act (Ottawa) terminated and agricultural extension work curtailed. Faculty of Agriculture at U.B.C. continued much of its extension work, absorbing it in regular budget.

* Technical high schools opened in Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster and Trail, providing facilities for adult and youth education.
* Canadian National Railways began radio broadcasts in B.C.
* University Extension Association founded in Victoria. Weekly lectures for community each season ever since.
* Vancouver Medical Association began series of annual summer schools for members.

1924 * School Board night classes by this time operated in 36 communities.

1925 * Putnam-Weir Report on Education in B.C. stressed need for in-service education for teachers.
* Teachers receiving training in manual arts at Vancouver Technical School on Saturdays.
* Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts (later, the School of Art) founded.

1926 * Apprenticeship program in the building trades greatly changed and expanded.
* First library on forestry in province established at Forest Products Laboratory (Federal) in Vancouver.
* Burrard Field Naturalists Club founded in Vancouver.

1927 * Vancouver Public Library opened first branch, Kitsilano.
* Major studies of libraries in B.C. carried out by Public Library Commission.
* B.C. Parent-Teacher Federation began major emphasis on study group work.
* Junior Service Club (precursor of Junior League) founded in Vancouver with emphasis on training of members.
* Occupational Course in Agriculture began at U.B.C.
* Canadian National Safety League established Vancouver Branch.

1929 * Complete high school course available by correspondence for the first time. J.W. Gibson named Director of Correspondence Education.

* Vancouver Public Library published pamphlet listing adult education opportunities in the city. First of its kind in B.C.
* First public fisheries library in B.C. established at Technical Station, Fisheries Research Board.
* University of British Columbia offered degree credit courses at night for first time.

1930 * Fraser Valley Public Library Demonstration began. Five year landmark project establishing regional library approach. Helen Stewart and C.K. Morrison the key staff. Of international significance in development of library service and organization.

* Greater Vancouver Health League organized.
* Dominion Drama Festival founded.

1931 * Relief camps started by B.C. government. Some taken over by Federal government in 1933. Last of provincial camps closed 1938. Substantial educational program run by Department of Education in a few of its camps. Federal government employed Frontier College to provide laborer-teachers in its camps.

* Unemployed flocked to public libraries. Vancouver had highest circulation figures ever recorded.
* Section of League for Social Reconstruction formed in Vancouver. Merged with C.C.F. 1935.

1932 * B.C. Socialist Party organized classes at its headquarters. Much political study group activity conducted in relation to founding of C.C.F.

* Kidd Report recommended drastic reduction in public services, including education.
* Vancouver Art Gallery opened.
* John Howard Society branch founded in Vancouver.
* Greater Vancouver Health League established. Various educational and informational activities in future years.

* Enrollments in night classes in B.C. down in 1932 and 1933.
* Reduction in U.B.C. budget forced discontinuation of agricultural extension work.

1933
* Drastic cut in Vancouver Public Library budget brought reduction of service at main and branch libraries.
* Y.W.C.A. active in relief work, training household helpers.
* English as a second language instruction began in Vancouver night classes in co-operation with private group, "The Language School".
* Voluntary organizations, led by the Council of Women, supplying reading materials for the relief camps.
* Patullo government elected with George Weir, Minister of Education, a strong supporter of adult education.

1934
* Department of Education created Advisory Committee on Adult Education to assist with development of programs to offset depression conditions and co-ordinate work of volunteer groups.
* Province launched recreation and physical education program (Pro-Rec) which grew rapidly, involving 21,493 persons by 1938-39. Continued until replaced by Community Programs Branch in 1952.
* Community Self-Help Associations set up with government assistance and much voluntary leadership (Council of Women). Conducted activities concerned with homemaking skills, drama, and other activities of assistance re morale and economic circumstances during depression.
* Vancouver Public Library launched program of fee-paying evening classes. Continued to 1942.

1935
* Apprenticeship Act (B.C.) passed.
* B.C. Government operated placer mining training camps at three centres this and following year.
* Okanagan Regional Library formed.
* National Film Society established, precursor of the Film Council Movement. B.C. exercised national leadership in this activity.
* First of F.H. Soward's annual addresses on "The

International Outlook" presented, sponsored by the League of Nations Society. Continued for many years, with interruption during Second World War.

* University of British Columbia, with the assistance of funds from the Carnegie Corporation, conducted "emergency program" of lectures for communities of the province during 1935-36 with 573 lectures, including 114 series. University began extension library service and also inaugurated Directed Reading credit courses.
* Canadian Association for Adult Education formed in Toronto, with several British Columbians playing part. New organization conducted national survey of adult education. E.A. Corbett of Alberta surveyed B.C.

1936 * Vancouver Island Union Library founded; later called Vancouver Island Regional Library.
* Extension Department of University of British Columbia established.
* B.C. Historical Association founded.
* Canadian Broadcasting Corporation established with two British Columbians on the Board of Governors.
* Shurpass Pacific College established to provide opportunities for completion of secondary schooling. Became Columbia Junior College in 1965.

1937 * Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act (Ottawa) passed; leads to Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Plan providing funds for training of unemployed. Continued to 1942. Merged into the War Emergency Training Program.
* Industrial Conciliation Arbitration Act (B.C.) passed. Significant new rights and responsibilities for organized labor.
* Dr. Gordon Shrum became Director of Extension Department, U.B.C. and lead it through major growth of the program 1937 to 1953.
* Branch of Workers' Educational Association founded in Victoria; Vancouver followed in 1939.

1938 * F.T. Fairey assumed direction of night schools in

Department of Education, a position he retained until 1945.

* Canadian Legion Educational Services established. B.C. individuals and institutions subsequently played active role through war years.
* U.B.C. Extension began educational work for B.C. fishermen which has continued ever since; launched the Summer School of the Arts, which was continued annually until 1964; and began its Youth Training School project, perhaps its most significant activity of this period.

1939
* National Film Board Act (Ottawa) created that agency.
* Drama groups at all-time high in B.C. with 177 groups (1,700 members). Services provided by Drama Supervisor of Department of Education and drama specialist of U.B.C. Extension Department. Latter ran radio series and play lending library.

1940
* Industrial training for war industries accelerated rapidly, especially in Vancouver and Victoria.
* Vancouver Speakers' Club active, hosted representatives of six other organizations active in public speaking training (Knights of Columbus, Junior Board of Trade, Gavel Club, Toastmasters' International, Young Liberals, Y.M.C.A. Talk Club).
* Elizabeth Fry Society formed in Vancouver.
* Newly re-organized Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-operative Association established educational program for members.

1941
* Farm Radio Forum began nationally and in B.C., University of British Columbia the organizing agency.
* Report on adult education in B.C. published by Public Library Commission.
* New Y.M.C.A. building opened in Vancouver; stimulates rapid expansion of program.
* Further very considerable expansion of Federal programs of training for wartime industry personnel.

1942
* Vocational Training Co-ordination Act (Ottawa) passed, with Federal government playing more active role in development of vocational training. This Act established the basic

structure for this work which was to exist for two decades.

* St. John's Ambulance Association activity doubled in B.C. in response to wartime needs.
* U.B.C. Extension began active role in developing rural film circuits in co-operation with National Film Board. Leading institution in Canada in this work.
* Council for the Guidance of the Handicapped formed in B.C., with great educational emphasis.

1943 * National Physical Fitness Act (Ottawa) passed and provided support for some Pro-Rec activity in B.C.
* Academic credit subjects offered in night schools for first time, in Vancouver.
* Citizens' Forum began nationally and in B.C. U.B.C. Extension organized the work in B.C. and continued to 1957.
* Annual summer conference on public affairs at Camp Elphinstone began under Y.M.C.A. and U.B.C. Extension sponsorship.

1944 * Powell River Pulp and Paper plant launched large training program, assisted by Department of Labour.

1945 * H. Jones assumed direction of night schools in Department of Education and held that position until 1955.
* Training of veterans rapidly expanded.
* First full-time director of adult education for school board in B.C., Mr. Graham Bruce, appointed by Vancouver School Board.
* Junior League paid salary of docent at Vancouver Art Gallery, accelerating gallery's educational work, including further docent training.
* Fishermen's Co-operative Federation appointed Director of Member Relations (Education).
* Major re-organization of Department of Agriculture (B.C.) led to expanded educational work.
* Agreement signed with Ottawa facilitated extension of apprenticeship training.
* Major expansion of U.B.C. extension work in agriculture and pre-school education.

* United Nations Association formed in Vancouver.

1946 * Major movement towards expansion of community centre facilities and programs under way in province.

* Larger school districts created following Cameron Report.

* Rapid expansion of enrollments in high school correspondence courses; 41 per cent of students were over 21 years of age.

* Significant expansion of night schools began.

* B.C. Department of Health and Welfare created and considerable public education undertaken.

* Industrial First Aid Attendants' Association of B.C. founded, with emphasis on education, qualifications.

1947 * U.B.C. Extension began its major program over the years in discussion leadership and group development work which continued as major activity until 1965.

* Naramata residential training Centre of United Church founded.

* National Film Board and U.B.C. Extension (in B.C.) launched the film council movement. B.C. leads the way nationally in developing this work. Project continued until 1957.

1948 * Evening Division of Victoria College created and extension work began.

* Vancouver Traffic and Safety Council expanded its educational activities, and created community committees in other centres.

* Canadian Association for Adult Education held annual meeting in Vancouver for the first time. Dr. Gordon Shrum became national President.

1949 * Travelling team from Canadian Congress of Labour conducted two-day institutes in Nanaimo and Vancouver.

* Vancouver Vocational Institute opened providing the basis for greatly-expanded technical and vocational adult education.

* University of British Columbia began correspondence courses for degree credit (supplanting directed reading courses).

1950 * B.C. government greatly increased funding for support of local libraries.

* U.B.C. School (later Faculty) of Commerce began expanded program of diploma courses in business specialties.

1952 * Industrial Film Council formed in Vancouver.

1953 * L.J. Wallace assumed direction of newly-created Community Programs Branch in Department of Education. Major expansion of recreational activity and establishment of local recreation councils followed.

* Elan Centre for International Education opened in Cowichan Bay area.

1954 * Significant statement of principle concerning adult education came out of meeting of Department of Education and U.B.C. officials.

* Following organizational meeting called by Department of Education, Vancouver School Board and U.B.C. Extension, the first of a series of semi-annual conferences on adult education was held.

1955 * L.J. Wallace assumed direction of night schools in Department of Education and first provincial conference of night school directors held. Period of major expansion of night schools began.

* Major expansion of U.B.C. off-campus credit courses began and further accelerated the following year with the creation of the College of Education at U.B.C.

* U.B.C. Extension conducted first of a series of three-week technical short courses for fishermen which continued until 1969.

1956 * Canadian Labour Congress established with strong Education Department.

* Dr. Roby Kidd taught first degree credit course on adult education at U.B.C. Summer Session. Full degree program began 1957, the first such in Canada.

1957 * B.C. Adult Education Council formed, providing a more structured organizational base for the semi-annual adult education conferences held since 1954.

* First of annual series of training events for museum personnel organized.

* U.B.C. Extension launched Living Room Learning, liberal arts discussion group program, which at its peak in 1962-63 was active in 66 communities in B.C. Program continued until 1964.
* Annual B.C. Arts Resources Conference held for first time.
* Great Books program operating in Vancouver under public library auspices.

1958
* Vancouver Public Library having moved the year before to its new quarters, the former library building at Main and Hastings re-opened as City Museum.
* Centennial celebration of the founding of the Mainland Colony produced many projects of educational significance.
* Vancouver International Festival (of the Arts) began and continued to 1967.

1959
* "The Film in Adult Education" project launched by Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver School Board and National Film Board offering a variety of educational activities for several years.
* B.C. Museums Association formed with emphasis on educational activities.
* Dr. Bert Wales succeeded Graham Bruce as Director of Adult Education for the Vancouver School Board. The Board was awarded Henry Marshall Tory Award as outstanding adult education program in Canada.

1960
* Dominion Bureau of Statistics labor force survey indicated B.C. had highest participation rate in adult education of any province.
* Technical and Vocational Training Assistance Act (Ottawa) provided basis for major expansion on cost-sharing basis of technical and vocational training facilities and programs 1960-1966.
* Prince George School Board arranged with University of British Columbia to have full-time resident faculty member in that community. Project continued three years.
* Report by D.E. Bridge, prepared for B.C. government, recommended correspondence courses in advanced technical subjects.

* Faculty of Medicine, U.B.C., created Department of Continuing Medical Education.
* U.B.C. Extension began offering series of in-service training short courses for adult education workers.

1961 * Major adult education conference sponsored by B.C. Adult Education Council began process of conversion to B.C. Division of Canadian Association for Adult Education. Also issued series of recommendations concerning future development of adult education.
* First educational T-V series in Vancouver with student registration, materials mailed out.
* Program established by Department of Education, "interrupted program", whereby adults could return and complete high school graduation by taking only selected subjects.
* University of British Columbia appointed first full-time adult education professor, Dr. Coolie Verner.
* Census of this year brought attention to the large illiteracy problem in Canada.

1962 * Vancouver School Board turned King Edward Secondary School into full-time centre for adult studies, day and evening. Also major increase in night school enrollments this year, in Vancouver and province-wide.
* Department of Education appointed Co-ordinator of Adult Education to administer grants and liaise with school boards, Mr. A. Cartier.
* "Macdonald Report" called for creation of community c leges in B.C. and strongly supported continuing education function.
* Second Canadian Conference on Education (Montreal) gave considerable emphasis to adult education and passed resolutions to this effect.
* New "Rules and Regulations" issued by the Department of Education concerning public school adult education provided greater local autonomy.
* Vancouver School Board approved "Statement of Principles" on adult education, the first of its kind in Canada.

* First conference on apprenticeship in B.C. held.

1963 * Public Schools Act revised to provide for the creation of community colleges.

* Universities Act (B.C.) created Simon Fraser University and University of Victoria. Stipulated continuing education as university function.

* Vancouver School Board began classes for illiterates.

* Labour College of Canada founded in Montreal.

1964 * B.C. Citizenship Council formed as a federation of local councils active in educational and other activities for newcomers.

* B.C. Institute of Technology opened.

* B.C. Federation of Labour and University of British Columbia conducted 12 week course for labor leaders.

* Bilingualism education expanded federally, with little effect on B.C. at this stage.

1965 * Vancouver Community College formed, amalgamating King Edward Centre, Vancouver Vocational Institute and Vancouver School of Art, with academic centre to be added. Director of Adult Education became Director of the college as well. Selkirk and Capilano Colleges also created this year.

* Department of Indian Affairs began to sponsor adult education work for Indian people. System of co-ordinators est blished, appointed by reserves to work with night school directors.

* Vancouver Y.M.C.A. launched pioneering life skills program for men.

* Forest Industrial Relations and I.W.A. reached significant agreement on on-the-job training in forest industry.

1966 * Centennial celebration of the union of the colonies produced many projects of educational significance.

* Ottawa announced new Manpower policy which vastly altered federal responsibility. See O.T.A., 1967.

* New provision by Department of Education for adults to complete grades 11 and 12 in 8 months.

* "Challenge for Change" National Film Board project emerged.

Film discussions only at first; then 1967, applied film techniques to problem of Indian-white relations in Chilliwack. Thereafter, more emphasis on Community Development.

* Canadian Association for Adult Education annual meeting in Vancouver. Dr. Bert Wales became President.
* Vancouver School Board hosted Canadian Education Association conference on Adult Education Through School Boards.
* Diploma Program in Adult Education first offered by University of British Columbia.
* Northwest Adult Education Association formed including B.C. and Alberta as well as American states in Northwest. Mr. Leslie Brooks became B.C. Board Member.
* Significant conference on continuing education for engineers, held at University of British Columbia, paved the way for expanded program for this group.

1967 * Centennial celebration of Canadian Confederation produced many projects of educational significance.
* Occupational Training Act (Ottawa) passed; greatly altered Federal government role in manpower planning and training. Ottawa takes financial responsibility for training as well as selection of students. More emphasis on adults. Adult Basic Education greatly accelerated.
* Manpower Department began English training for newcomers under its auspices.
* First volume of Bilingual and Bicultural Commission report published; lead to increased second language training.
* Council of Ministers of Education formed.
* Fiscal Arrangements Act (Ottawa) inaugurated new form and extent of Federal support of post-secondary education in the province.
* Canadian Labour Congress inaugurated its annual Labour Instructors' Training Program at Parksville.

1968 * Division of Continuing Education in the Health Sciences created at U.B.C.
* Vancouver Centennial Museum opened.

* Mr. Dean Goard became President of the Canadian Vocational Association and Mr. Gordon Selman became President of the Canadian Association for Adult Education.
* U.B.C. Extension inaugurated major expansion of programs for women. Other institutions to do likewise in subsequent years.

1969
* Industrial Services unit created by B.C. Institute of Technology.
* School Canadiana English as a second language program launched by United Church for teaching English to Chinese people. Vancouver Community College subsequently became involved.
* Employment Orientation for Women program began at Vancouver Community College.

1970
* Evening Division of University of Victoria renamed Division of Continuing Education and full-time Director appointed.
* Province acts to meld vocational schools and colleges.
* Vancouver Art Gallery opened new building.
* BEST Program began at Vancouver Community College.

1971
* Centennial celebration of B.C.'s joining Confederation produced many projects of educational significance.
* Ottawa launched Indian Cultural Centres program. Developments in B.C. reached fruition by 1973.
* Division of Continuing Education established at Simon Fraser University.
* First Community Schools inaugurated in Victoria and North Vancouver.
* Instructors' Diploma Program for vocational instructors launched by Department of Education, administered by U.B.C. Extension.
* Neighborhood English class program inaugurated by Vancouver Community College.
* Department of Education hosted conference of university and college representatives to discuss co-ordination and co-operation in the field of adult education.

1972
* Founding conference held of Association for Continuing

Education (B.C.), later renamed Pacific Association for Continuing Education. Replaced B.C. Division of Canadian Association for Adult Education and formed by coming together of the latter, and the B.C. Chapter of the Canadian Vocational Association and B.C. Association of Continuing Education Administrators. The latter remained in existence as separate organization.

* National Indian Brotherhood published significant policy paper on education stressing Indian control of own education and emphasis on Indian culture.

1973 * G.E.D. testing program adopted in B.C.

* Registered Nurses Association of B.C. published major statement on continuing education for nurses.

* Chautauqua by the Pacific, week long series of courses for adult educators, held for first time. Organized by U.B.C. with sponsorship from others as well.

1974 * B.C. Police College created.

* B.C. Institute of Technology launched directed study program.

* Department of Education Task Force on the Community College issued report which put considerable stress on the adult education function of colleges.

* Several adult education organizations in province submitted recommendations to Minister of Education concerning future development of this work. Briefs submitted by B.C. Association of Continuing Education Administrators; Pacific Association for Continuing Education and U.B.C. Extension. Minister's White Paper on Education completely ignored adult education.

* Local learning network projects begin to appear in Vancouver, with computer assistance.

1975 * B.C. Institute of Technology Act passed. Institution began to operate under own Board.

* Minister of Education made strong statement endorsing recurrent education as master planning concept. Government defeated few weeks later.

1976 * Director of Continuing Education at U.B.C., Dr. Walter Hardwick, became Deputy Minister of Education. Government conducted study of adult education policy in the province by means of three commissions/committees; one on university level programs in non-metropolitan areas; one on technical and vocational education; and one on "continuing and community education".

* Conferences at both University of British Columbia and B.C. Institute of Technology on the training of adult educators and teachers in B.C.

* Government austerity program excluded certain local school board programs from receiving supporting grants, reduced the level of supporting grants for some other programs and services, and brought about reduction in some college adult education activity.

AN APPEAL

The foregoing is an initial attempt to prepare a chronological outline of the outstanding events in the development of adult education in British Columbia. The author and publisher are aware that important omissions may well have occurred (for which the author is solely responsible). It would be appreciated if anyone who reviews this publication and has information which would help to make it more complete would communicate with the author at the following address or phone number:

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